

Duxbury Pier Light To Be Torn Down

As many of you are aware, especially those of you who receive the local notice to mariners, Duxbury Pier Light (Bug Light) is scheduled for reconstruction starting June 20. Basically, this reconstruction entails tearing down the existing structure, rebuilding the foundation and erecting a fiberglass tower topped with a solar light and fog horn. The work will last a good part of the summer. Helicopters and vessels will ship the needed supplies between Cordage Park in Plymouth and the construction site.

The overhaul of this much needed aid to navigation is long overdue. At times the light is barely visible and the audible fog horn is out of commission much of the time.

While the construction takes place, a temporary buoy equipped with characteristics similar to those of the current structure will be stationed off Saquish in the Plymouth channel by nun buoy #6. Nun buoy #2A in Duxbury channel will be lighted. We hope this will eliminate any accidental landing on the rock piles guarded by Bug Light.

The Bittersweet, a buoy tender, will be moored just east of the project along with barges needed to remove debris.

As Harbormaster, I am responsible for the safe passage of vessels in Duxbury waters. For this reason I am happy and relieved to see this overhaul taking place. However, I am concerned that reconstruction of this historic site might take place without due notification of the citizens who have gazed on this lighthouse for many years.

There is no doubt that the cost of maintaining this new aid will be 1/4 that of the existing structure. The new light will be of quality much needed for the area.

I am not sure when the federal government will release its official notice so I am taking this opportunity to inform area mariners and those who may be interested in the project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or write to Commander Richard Mockler, Group Boston Coast Guard, 427 Commercial St., Boston 02109.

-- Donald Beers
Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable